

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 FRB-02 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-08 SCEM-02 SCI-06 AEC-11

AECE-00 FPC-01 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01

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P R 140825Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2219

USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

UNCLAS ZAGREB 0873

PASS EXIM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ETRD, PINT, APER, YO

SUBJECT: CRITICAL ENERGY SHORTFALLS IN CROATIA AND SLOVENIA

REF: A. BELGRADE 5420; B. BELGRADE A-413; C. BELGRADE 5251:

D. BELGRADE 5523

SUMMARY: CRITICAL ELECTRIC ENERGY SHORT FALLS HAVE LED TO WIDESPREAD AND SEVERE POWER-CUTS AND BLACKOUTS IN CROATIA AND SLOVENIA. WHILE PROSPECTS FOR RELATIVELY EARLY AMELIORATION SITUATION SLIGHTLY LESS DISCOURAGING IN SLOVENIA, OUTLOOK DIM FOR SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN CROATIA PRIOR LATE WINTER OR EARLY SPRING WHEN HEAVIER USABLE PRECIPITATION PREDICTABLE. CRISIS FOCUSING ATTENTION ON NEED FOR INSTALLATION "EARLY ON LINE" GENERATING CAPACITIES. THUS THERE MAY BE NEAR-TERM ROLE FOR U.S. SUPPLIERS OF ELECTRICAL GENERATING EQUIPMENT FROM AUXILIARY UNITS THROUGH TURBINES IN 20-70 MW RANGE.

END SUMMARY

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1. WITH MUCH OF CROATIA AND SLOVENIA EXPERIENCING SEVERE BLACKOUTS AND POWER-CUTS OF SIX OR MORE HOURS DAILY DURING RECENT WEEKS, ENERGY SHORTAGE PRIME TOPIC LOCAL MEDIA AND PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS. WHILE SLOVENIAN SITUATION MORE SUSCEPTIBLE AMELIORATION THROUGH ANTICIPATED RESTORATION "ON LINE" OF SOSTANJ III THERMAL PLANT (WHICH HAS HISTORY OF BREAKDOWNS), CROATIAN PROBLEM LESS LIKELY DIMINISH IN SHORT TERM SINCE CROATIA'S THERMAL PLANTS RUNNING OVER PROJECTED CAPACITY AND SIGNIFICANT USABLE PRECIPITATION UNLIKELY DURING COLD MONTHS.

2. ON DECEMBER 11, ZAGREB TV DEVOTED ONE HOUR PROGRAM TO CRISIS. BOHUMIL BERNASEK, MEMBER CROATIA'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SAID ON PROGRAM THAT WESTINGHOUSE GAS TURBINE GENERATORS BEING SUPPLIED CROATIA'S JERTOVEC PLANT AS PART KRSKO PACKAGE (REF C). HE ADDED THAT ANOTHER SUCH INSTALLATION "WHICH CAN BE ONHINE IN YEAR" MAY BE NEEDED. BERNASEK CITED NATURAL GAS AS AN AVAILABLE ENERGY SOURCE IN YUGOSLAVIA. ON SAME TV PROGRAM, ZAGREB ENERGY EXPERT, PROFESSOR HRVOJE POZAR ADVOCATED PURCHASE "SEVERAL" TURBINES. HE STRESSED: "THE EXTRA COST WE MAY HAVE TO PAY FOR NEEDED ENERGY IS LESS IMPORTANT THAT THE QUESTION OF HAVING IT". PRESS NOTES SIMILAR CONCERN AMONG MEMBERS CROATIA'S PARLIAMENT WHO REPORTEDLY HAVE CALLED FOR "URGENT INTERVENTIONARY MEASURES".

3. WITH SLIM POSSIBILITY NOW OF SIGNIFICANT PRECIPITATION AND WITH CROATIA'S THERMAL PLANTS ALREADY OPERATING OVER PEAK CAPACITIES, SENIOR OFFICIALS HERE PRIVATELY PESSIMISTIC THAT POWER-CUTS AND BLACKOUTS WILL END BEFORE LATE WINTER OR EARLY SPRING. POWER-CUTS TO ZAGREB RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN OCCURING DAILY APPROXIMATELY FROM 0500 TO 0800 AND FROM 1600 TO 1900. BLACK-OUT SEVERE ON ZAGREB STREETS WITH OFTEN SMOGGY CITY STYGIAN DURING ALL HOURS OF DARKNESS. LIGHTS BANNED IN DISPLAY WINDOWS. STORES, WITH EXCEPTION FOOD OUTLETS, REQUIRED CLOSE BY 1600. OUTDOOR MARKETS OPENING ONLY AFTER 0700 DUE LACK ILLUMINATION. CANDLES, FLASHLIGHTS, LIGHTING OIL, AND BOTTLED GAS SOLD OUT ON ZAGREB MARKET. GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN ZAGREB ON 0800 TO 1600 SCHEDULE.

4. COMMERCE ACTION: COMMERCE MAY WISH TO DRAW SITUATION SOONEST
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TO ATTENTION SUITABLE U.S. SUPPLIERS OF POWER GENERATING EQUIPMENT.
WILSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ZAGREB00873
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
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